



Roxann Wedegartner  
Mayor

City of  
**GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS**  
**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

City Hall • 14 Court Square • Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone 413-772-1548 ext 3 • Fax 413-772-1309  
[Cassie.tragert@greenfield-ma.gov](mailto:Cassie.tragert@greenfield-ma.gov) • [www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://www.greenfield-ma.gov)

John Griffin, Chair  
Rachel Lindsay, Vice Chair  
Erika LaForme  
Fletcher Harrington  
Travis Drury

Agent: Cassie Tragert

**GREENFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Greenfield Department of Planning and Development**  
**Online Through Zoom**  
**Greenfield MA 01301**

The meeting was called to order by Rachel Lindsay at 6:34 PM with the following members:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rachel Lindsay  
Erika LaForme  
Fletcher Harrington  
Travis Drury

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** John Griffin (With Notice)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cassie Tragert (Agent)  
Anthony Wonseski (SVE Associates)  
Mark (SVE Associates)  
Dwight Merriman (Big Y Foods)  
Jon Hancock (Spring Valley Landscapes)  
Rachel Loeffler (Berkshire Design Group)

**Note on Meeting Access in light of COVID-19 State of Emergency:**

*Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Greenfield Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found below. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the City of Greenfield website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.*

*Should any technical interruption to the meeting occur and the meeting is suddenly ended, it will not be resumed and all items will be automatically continued to the next scheduled meeting date. Contact the Conservation Agent for more information*



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**Administrative Matters: Approval of Meeting Minutes from 3/23/2021**

Commissioner Lindsay noted an issue with page numbers, Agent Tragert said she would resolve it.

**Motion made by Erika LaForme to approve the minutes for the March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 meetings as amended.**

**Motion seconded by Travis Drury.**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

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**Public Meetings/Hearings**

- **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: Slope Stability at Rear Linwood Street associated with Franklin County Fairgrounds; (Map: 33, Lot: 16C) DEP File # Not Yet Obtained.**

Agent Tragert informed the Commission that the applicant is generating a revised final plan for submission and so is requesting a continuance of the hearing to April 27<sup>th</sup>.

- **Public Hearing: Notice of Intent: Tree removal, invasive plant removal, and restoration planting at 225-245 Mohawk Trail ; (Map: 44 Lot: 4) DEP File #: 168-0339**

Anthony Wonseski Jr. P.E. of SVE Associates presented new information on the possibility of adding plantings to the plan in the one currently clear area. After revisiting the site and examining the area he does not recommend any tree plantings there because it could obstruct or negatively impact the existing bioretention area, primarily the forebay of it. He also reviewed the process that would be used for herbicide application on the existing invasive species and presented Jon Hancock of Spring Valley Landscaping to give more details about options.

Hancock suggested that chemical herbicide not be used and explained that hand pulling and regular trimming of new shoots should be just as effective. Commissioner Harrington asked when the knotweed cutting would be done and how would the loose trimmings be managed and kept from propagating elsewhere? Hancock explained they would need a year of weekly cutting and they could be there biweekly to trim new growth. All trimmings would be collected as they worked and would not be allowed to enter the stream. Trimmings would then be taken to their composting site.

Commissioner Harrington questioned the necessity of removing all the trees, and Commissioner Lindsay agreed that it appears the upper portions of the trees may not be the main sources of visual obstruction of the sign. It was noted that mature trees have important functions and their removal should be avoided where possible. Commissioner Lindsay suggested trimmings be explored as an alternative with removal of vegetation below a certain height being a possible solution. Dwight Merriman requested a second site visit be conducted to help determine what that height would be and the Commission agreed. Commissioner Harrington noted that the end result may not be total clarity of view from all angles, but hopefully a



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**Agent: Cassie Tragert**

compromise could be found with maximum mature trees being kept with the most visibility increase achieved.

Agent Tragert asked for clarification as to whether the invasive species removal and proposed plants would remain in the plan. Hancock explained that the invasives are major source of the current obstruction so they should remain and that all the plantings could be maintained to keep from getting so tall as to block the view as well.

Merriman requested a continuance to the April 27<sup>th</sup> Conservation Commission meeting to accommodate this request. Commissioner Lindsay confirmed.

Agent Tragert Requested that Project Monitoring & Site Visit Scheduling for 739 Bernardston Road – Center School be taken out of agenda order to accommodate those in attendance.

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**Project Monitoring & Site Visit Scheduling**

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- List of active Order of Conditions and updates.
  - 739 Bernardston Road – Center School.
    - Proposed two changes to the originally approved plan for discussion on whether an Amended Order of Condition is appropriate to pursue or a new Notice of Intent will be required. The first change consisted of a reduction of grading between the corner of the school and the basket ball court as well as the addition of a land bridge and stormwater drainage pipe. The reason for the change is to create more outdoor access to the students of that classroom. The Change will not impact stormwater report drainage calculations and does not propose any increases to the amount of disturbance to any resources areas, no changes in the limit of work, and does not change the purpose of the project. There will also be no changes to the Operations and Maintenance plan resulting from this change. The Commission determined that this change is appropriate for a request for an Amended Order of Conditions in accordance with the DEP guidance on such requests.

The second change proposed was for the use of more mature tree plantings to be used throughout the site with less developed plantings being used in remedial planting area that was accidentally cleared. The Commission noted that the Order of Conditions does not specify any required maturity of plantings be used in either area so no request for Amended Order of Conditions is required and they can proceed as they have presented this without further review.

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**Enforcement Updates & Other Business**

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- Enforcement updates
  - 21 Spring Terrace (Map 65-9) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.
    - No updates, awaiting review of plantings in the spring.
  - 286 Plain Road (Map R34-10) – unauthorized construction within Riverfront Area.



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- No updates.
- 637 Colrain Road (Map R35-7) – unauthorized filling of wetlands.
  - No updates.
- Old Wedgewood Gardens - Kimball Drive (Map 48-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
  - No updates.
- 8 Conway Drive (Map 49-24) – unauthorized fill of Riverfront Area.
  - No updates.

➤ Request for Letter of Support/Permission for Griswold/GTD Conservation Area Grant Application -

Agent Tragert presented a request for permission made by Lincoln Fish of Bay State Forestry to pursue a grant application for invasive species removal at Griswold/GTD Conservation Area. The Commission reviewed the draft letter and did not propose any changes. It was noted that the letter will give permission to pursue the grant, but that the Commission would need to review and approve the final invasive removal plan before any of the work could be completed.

**Motion made by Fletcher Harrington to issue a letter of permission and support to Bay State Forestry to pursue the Stewardship Grant for the Griswold/GTD Conservation Area.**

**Motion Seconded by Erika LaForme.**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

- City Ordinance Review – Agent Tragert noted that this project is on-going with no major updates at this time. Commissioner Lindsay said she will likely be adding notes after attending an MACC course on the subject. Commissioner Drury also added that a relief provision should be researched as well as addition of alternate member for the Commission.
- Additional Project Monitoring - Commissioner Lindsay noted that the existing Deerfield Street development project should be added to the Project Monitoring section for future meetings as well as a replacement project at Highland Park. Agent Tragert confirmed that she will do this and figure out the current status of these projects.

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**Project Monitoring & Site Visit Scheduling (Continued)**

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- List of active Order of Conditions and updates.
- 195 Mill Brook Road – Solar Project.
    - No updates.
  - 125 Mohawk Trail – Hotel Construction.
    - No updates.
  - 60 James Street – Single-family home.
    - No updates.
  - Wisdom Way/River Street/Mill Street Intersection (DEP #: 168-0338, Exp. 10/27/2023) – Roadway improvements.
    - No updates.



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➤ **Set Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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**Meeting Adjourned at 8:43 PM**

**Motion made by Rachel Lindsay to adjourn at 8:43 PM**

**Motion seconded by Erika LaForme**

**No further discussion – 4-0-0 – Motion Carries**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cassie Tragert,  
Conservation Agent

John Griffin,  
Chair